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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7909

BILL NUMBER: SB 626

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 11, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Feb 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Riverboats.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Clark

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill provides that a riverboat operating in a county along Lake Michigan or the Ohio River must have either a valid certificate of inspection from the United States Coast Guard or a valid certification of compliance with structural and life safety standards determined by the Gaming Commission.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Riverboat Inspection:* The bill would allow a riverboat casino on Lake Michigan or the Ohio River to continue operating provided it has a valid certification of compliance with structural and life safety standards as determined by the Indiana Gaming Commission in lieu of the certificate of inspection (required under current statute) for carrying at least 500 passengers from the U. S. Coast Guard. As is the case with current Coast Guard inspections, the full cost of the alternative structural and life safety inspection presumably would be paid by the riverboat owner.

The U. S. Coast Guard issued a notice on June 21, 2004, in the Federal Register indicating that it intends to discontinue inspecting and issuing certificates of inspection for vessels that do not get under way or have difficulty getting under way (a permanently moored vessel). The proposed rules are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2006. According to the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC) some jurisdictions have utilized third party inspections with retired Coast Guard inspectors using Coast Guard inspection standards.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Gaming Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: American Gaming Association, <http://www.americangaming.org>.

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